Functioning of APDRP

†1803. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programmes (APDRP) was planned in 2003 for extensive reforms in power sector;

(b) whether the target of bringing down Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses of power upto fifteen per cent during the next five years was fixed under the programme;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the progress made in the direction of achieving the stipulated targets in the country upto December, 2007; and

(d) the state of T&D losses of power during 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Government had launced Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) in the year 2002-03 with the objective of encouraging reforms and of reduction in Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss, improving quality of supply of power and improving consumer satisfaction.

(b) The target under APDRP was to reduce AT&C losses to 15% in five years to begin with in urban and high density consumption areas.

(c) AT&C loss has come down in towns where APDRP has been implemented. Further, some of the utilities which adopted various interventions as envisaged under the programme have shown significant reduction in AT&C loss. At town level, AT&C losses have been brought below 20 per cent in 215 APDRP towns in the country of which 163 towns have brought AT&C losses below 15 per cent.

(d) The draft report on Performance of State Power Utilities for the years 2004-05 to 2006-07 prepared by the Power Finance Corporation indicates that the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss of the State Power Utilities at the national level for 2006-07 was 32.07% of the total energy available for sale.

Rationalisation of mega power policy

1804. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to further rationalize the existing mega power policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the companies which have shown interest to set up mega power plants in the country would be encouraged; and

(d) if so, in what manner and the likely generation of power during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal is aimed at encouraging capacity addition by further rationalization of existing policy.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the Mega Power Policy, the following fiscal concessions/ benefits are available:—

(i) **Zero Customs Duty:** Import of capital equipment free of customs duty in terms of Notification No. 21/2002 -customs dated 1st March, 2002 of Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) read together with Notification No. 49/2006-Customs dated 26th May, 2006.

(ii) **Deemed Export Benefits:** Under Chapter 8 of the Foreign Trade Policy, Deemed Export Benefits are available to domestic bidders for mega power projects both under public and private sector, on following the stipulations prescribed therein.

In addition to the above, income-tax holiday as per Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act 1961 is also available to mega power projects.

The capacity addition targets to the tune of 78,577 MW has been envisaged for the 11th Plan. Generation targets are fixed on a year to year basis. For the year 2007-08, a generation target of 710 Billion Units (BU) (including import from Bhutan) has been fixed.

Training of workforce in power PSUs

1805. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has recently advised the power generating PSUs and other allied undertakings, to accord desired importance to the training of their workforce, to enhance the generation capacities to a high level than at the present;

(b) if so, how manay PSUs have responded and what measures have been initiated by these undertakings to introduce internal training modules in their HR practices;

(c) what has been the outcome of the said measures and how far they have contributed in enhancing the generation capacities of the undertakings; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Power has from time to time and at various forums advised Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under its administrative control to accord importance to training of their work force. According to the "National Training Policy" of the Ministry of Power, all PSUs should allocate adequate funds to training and development activities for meeting the stipulated training requirements.

The various power generation PSUs like NTPC Ltd., National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Ltd. (NHPC), Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVNL), Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd. (THDC), North Eastern Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCO) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) have complied with the advice of this Ministry. The PSUs are